

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 – 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). A method for preventing termite damage to man-made structures comprising the steps of:

mixing ~~borates with a solvent~~ disodium octaborate tetrahydrate, water, and at least one glycol to form a borate solution which comprises from about 10 to about 30%, by weight, disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;

obtaining a ~~non-wood~~ cementitious building component having an exposed surface which is susceptible to the formation of termite shelter tubes;

coating the exposed surface of the ~~non-wood~~ cementitious building component with the borate solution in an amount sufficient to provide a surface concentration of borates on the exposed surface; and

incorporating the ~~coated non-wood~~ cementitious building component into a man-made structure

wherein the surface concentration of borates provides a termite barrier which is effective to prevent termites from forming tubes across the surface of the ~~non-wood~~ cementitious building component.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 15, wherein the coated ~~non-wood~~ cementitious building component is incorporated into the man-made structure at that portion between the ground and wood or cellulosic materials, wherein the ~~non-wood~~ cementitious building component forms a non-traversable termite barrier.

Claim 17 (Original). The method of claim 15, wherein the termite damage to be prevented is that caused by Reticulitermes, Heterotermes or Coptotermes.

Claims 18 – 19 (Cancelled).

Claim 20 (Original). The method of claim 15, wherein the borate solution is applied to all external surfaces of the building component.

Claims 21 – 23 (Cancelled).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 15, wherein the coating on the ~~non-wood~~ cementitious building component does not penetrate throughout the interior of the ~~non-wood~~ cementitious building component.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (Original). The method of claim 15, wherein the borate solution is applied by spraying, dipping, brushing, roller coating, pressure immersion, or gaseous application.

Claims 27 – 38 (Cancelled).

Claim 39 (New). The method of Claim 15, wherein the borate solution comprises at least one glycol selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, monoethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 40 (New). The method of Claim 15, wherein the borate solution comprises propylene glycol.

Claim 41 (New). The method of Claim 15, wherein the borate solution comprises monoethylene glycol.

Claim 42 (New). The method of Claim 15, wherein the borate solution comprises diethylene glycol.

Claim 43 (New). The method of Claim 15, the exposed surface of the cementitious building component is coated with an average coating of from about  $0.0005 \text{ g/cm}^2$  to about  $1.0 \text{ g/cm}^2$  of the borate solution.

Claim 44 (New). The method of Claim 15, the exposed surface of the cementitious building component is coated with an average coating of from about  $0.04 \text{ g/cm}^2$  to about  $0.10 \text{ g/cm}^2$  of the borate solution.

Claim 45 (New). The method of Claim 15, wherein the cementitious building component is coated with the borate solution prior to being incorporated into the man-made structure.

Claim 46 (New). The method of Claim 15, wherein the cementitious building component is coated with the borate solution after being incorporated into the man-made structure.